GUIDE TO COMMAND OF NEGRO NAVAL PERSONNEL

Restored & Preserved for Historical Truth

By a Retired U.S. Navy Veteran

In Honor of the Black American (Freedmen) Sailors Who Served

NAVPERS-15092 - United States Navy Bureau of Naval Personnel

Original Publication: 1945

Restored Edition: April 11, 2025

Guide to Command of Negro Naval Personnel (Restored)

Restoration Statement

Restored and preserved by a retired U.S. Navy veteran on behalf of all Black American (Freedmen) sailors who served under segregation - and were later erased from the record.

This restored version of NAVPERS-15092 is not just a preservation effort, but a testimony. It exists so that the United States can never say "we didnt know" or pretend these men didnt serve with honor. May this stand forever as evidence, in print and in truth.

Date of Restoration: April 11, 2025

Foreword (Restored)

In 1945, the U.S. Navy published a document titled "Guide to Command of Negro Naval Personnel" (NAVPERS-15092). It was created as a training manual for white officers tasked with leading segregated Black sailors. This document - flawed, condescending, and yet historically significant - represented an official acknowledgment of systemic racism within military ranks.

Though intended to promote order within a segregated force, the guide unintentionally became proof of institutional inequality. It is restored here as a record, not of praise, but of historical honesty. The chapters reveal more than policy - they expose a nation wrestling with itself.

This version honors the memory of those who served, particularly those like the Port Chicago 50, who bore the burden of racism even in uniform.

Notable Chapter Summaries

1. "Racial Theories Waste Manpower"

Acknowledged that racist assumptions cost the Navy valuable human resources. Officers were advised to abandon pseudoscience in favor of operational effectiveness.

2. "Negro Eager to Learn"

Framed Black sailors as willing but in need of guidance. The language was patronizing, yet it showed the Navys recognition that Black servicemen were not the problem - segregation was.

3. Leadership in a Segregated Navy

Officers were taught to command with "fairness" while maintaining separation. It reveals the contradiction of a military demanding unity but enforcing division.

4. Respect and Morale

The manual warned that disrespect and ridicule destroyed morale. An ironic truth in a Navy built on racial separation.

5. Hidden Context: Port Chicago and Beyond

The guide came out just months after the Port Chicago disaster, where 320 sailors - mostly Black - died. Survivors who resisted unsafe conditions were court-martialed. Their story remains central to understanding this manuals era.

May this restoration remind all Americans that erasure is itself an act of injustice.